

Vacation Bible School 2025

From the Rev. Luke Selles:

Last week, the St. Martin's and St. Paul's campuses were full of children for Vacation Bible School in a collaboration between St. Timothy's, Roxborough, St. Paul's, Chestnut Hill, and St. Martin's. Our theme this year was "Come Grow with Us," as we dove deep into the Parable of the Sower through storytelling, creative activities, and music-making.

Throughout the week, myself and the Reverend Meghan Mazur, Rector of St. Tim's, Roxborough, and the Reverend Madeleine Harris-Lerew, Assistant Rector of St. Paul's, as well as many other volunteer leaders and teachers, shared our Christian belief that God's creation is a gift we all share: we all live in it together and depend on it together. Caring for it—together—is both a good work and collective act of faith. Our week was packed with activities and learning. We planted seeds.

We tie-dyed t-shirts. We created our own instruments from found materials.

We were introduced to the organ, handbells, and the bells in the bell tower.

On Friday, our final day, we learned about living – and thriving – together in community. We learned about the Paw Paw, a native tree, and how it is intertwined with the life of the Zebra Swallowtail, a native butterfly, and with deer and other creatures, which spread its seeds. We enjoyed slip n' slides and sprinklers. We closed the week with a special celebration for families, as the children sang two songs that they learned and we gathered for ice cream and connection.

It was a full week – a week of challenges, dangerous heat, and many last minute adaptations. But in spite of, or perhaps because of these challenges, we planted seeds of God's love, we put down roots, and we grew – by the end of the week, we were no longer members of three parishes: we were one community of God. And it was the children leading the way as they grew in community with each other and in confidence within themselves.

You can click [here](#) to view VBS photos and hear our campers sing!

It goes without saying that this week could not have happened, and certainly not with any success, without the dedication, grace, love, and patience of many people, who I will list here. Please forgive me for any omissions, as, again, there were many, many folk who helped: it truly took a village!

Thank you to the Campers and their Families: you are a blessing.

Thank you to our Shepherds, the guides for each age cohort: Lucy Martin, Angel Wentz, the Rev. Carol Duncan, and Erin McNamara Horvat: your impact and your faithful effort can not be overstated.

Thank you to our Godly Play storytellers: Kathleen Karhnak-Glasby and Jean MacKenzie: you invited us all into a deeper engagement with the Word.

Thank you to our Musicians: Tyrone Whiting, Julia Finegan, Brooke Witherite, Marisa Miller, and Lily Martin: your expertise and enthusiasm brought everything to life! Thank you, thank you.

Thank you to our Activity Leaders, Teachers, and Volunteers: Wendy Leaver, Mark (from St. Paul's Sacred Ground Team), the Rev. Bill Jacobsen, Brooke Witherite, Angel Wentz, Julia Finegan, Tyrone Whiting, Eilene Butler, Charles Rumford, Lily Martin, Kelly Martin, Brian Mazur, James Mazur, Diane Dugan, Erin McNamara Horvat, Karen Teel, Kay Hankinson, Rose Chan, Jill Monahan and Lyra: your flexibility, knowledge, and joy were a blessing to all.

Thank you to our Snack and Lunch Preparers: an enormous thank you to the Rev. Meghan Mazur from St. Timothy's for coordinating the lunches and most of the snacks for the week. A huge thank you to Ethel Wesley for her graciousness and wisdom. Thank you to Kelly Martin for help with dirt pudding, round 2!

Thank you to those who donated supplies: Debra Roberts, Wendy Leaver, Jim Fairburn, Kelly Martin, Joanne Conway: you were the backbone of this project – thank you!

Thank you to the members of St. Martin's Staff Team who supported the project and assisted with the many logistics: the Rev. Mary Barber, the Rev. Laura Palmer, Noor Diskan, Lorie Hershey, James Kent, and Tyrone Whiting: your competence made so many aspects of this undertaking a breeze – thank you!

Last but not least, thank you to the Rev. Madeleine Harris-Lerew and Rev. Meghan Mazur: thank you for your witness, your love for the Word and for each child, and thank you for willingness to try something new. And thank you to the Rev. Eric Hungerford and Andrew Kotylo at St. Paul's, for so graciously offering your beautiful space at the eleventh hour.